CLAIMS

The claimed invention is:

1. A method for obtaining a travel time, comprising the steps of:

(a) requesting a search category from a user;

(b) obtaining a plurality of locations in the search category which are within a selected area;

(c) computing a first travel time from a first location to a second location in the plurality of locations; and,

(d) storing the first travel time and respective first location.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

computing a second travel time from the first location to a third location in the plurality of locations; and,

sorting the first travel time and second travel time by ascending order.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the search category is restaurants and the first location is a first restaurant.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the search category is gas stations and the first location is a gas station.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of expanding the selected area.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

determining whether a preselected number of locations have respective travel times computed.

7. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

estimating the first travel time by dividing a distance from the first location to the second location by a maximum speed; and,

determining whether the estimated first time is less than a predetermined limit.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the obtaining step includes searching a database for a plurality of locations within a selected geographical area.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the requesting step further includes prompting a user on a cellular phone display.

10. A method for obtaining a travel time, comprising the steps of:

(a) requesting a search category from a user;

(b) obtaining a plurality of locations in the search category which are within a selected area;

(c) determining whether the selected area should be expanded based upon the plurality of locations;

(d) estimating a first travel time by dividing the distance from the first location to the second location by a maximum speed;

(e) determining whether the estimated first travel time is less than a predetermined limit;

(f) computing a first travel time from a first location to a second location in the plurality of locations;

(g) storing the first travel time and respective first location;

(h) computing a second travel time from a first location to a third location in the plurality of locations; and,

(i) sorting the first travel time with the second travel time based upon ascending values.

11. A system for obtaining a minimum travel time from an origin to a first location, comprising:

(a) a communication device for inputting a user selected category and receiving a first location, from the user selected category, having the minimum travel time;

(b) a transmitter/receiver, coupled to the communication device, for receiving the user selected category and transmitting the first location; and,

(c) a processing device, coupled to the transmitter/receiver, for computing the minimum travel time.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein the communication device is a cellular telephone.

13. The system of claim 11, wherein the category is a restaurant category.

14. The system of claim 11, wherein the processing device is a computer.

15. The system of claim 11, further comprising:

(d) a persistence storage device, coupled to the processing device, for storing map information.

16. An article of manufacture having a computer readable medium, comprising:

(a) a first software program for obtaining a user selected category;

(b) a second software program for obtaining a plurality of locations in the user selected category within a predetermined area surrounding the location of the user;

(c) a third software program for computing the travel time from the user location to the respective plurality of locations;

(d) a fourth software program for sorting the plurality of locations based on the respective travel times; and,

(e) a fifth software program for providing the sorted plurality of locations and respective travel times to the user.